

King Henry takes over to distribute \$700 billion. He's going to be there for 4 months. And in 4 months, he will make deals; and then he will go out and he will be able to catch a pass he threw to himself.

IN RECOGNITION OF BULGARIA'S CENTURY OF INDEPENDENCE

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, today is the 100th anniversary of independence for the people of the Republic of Bulgaria.

On September 22, 1908, Bulgaria emerged from the control of the Ottoman Empire as an independent nation. Following World War II, Bulgaria was subject to totalitarian rule for much of the 20th century until the defeat of communism in the beginning of the 1990s.

Today, Bulgaria is a dynamic member of NATO and the European Union. I am grateful for the growing partnership between the United States and Bulgaria, in particular their courageous military contributions in the global war on terrorism. Last month, I was grateful to visit our extraordinary friends during a visit to joint Bulgaria-U.S. training bases in Bulgaria.

As the co-chair of the Bulgarian Caucus, I have seen firsthand for the people of Bulgaria this remarkable achievement of freedom and democracy. The friendship between Bulgaria and America has never been stronger. Much credit is due to the professionalism of the departing ambassador, Ambassador Elena Poptodorova.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

WAR IS NOT THE WAY TO STOP TERRORISM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, ever since 9/11, the current administration has relied on military force alone to fight terrorism. This policy has been a disaster. There have been over 34,000 Americans killed or hurt in Iraq, but we aren't any safer. And now our troops in Afghanistan are facing a growing insurgency.

The lesson we must learn from all this is that we cannot bomb and torture our way to friendship and coopera-

tion around the world. We must eliminate the root causes of terrorism, which are poverty and despair. And to do that, we must focus on helping Nations like Iraq and Afghanistan to make social, economic, and political progress.

Former Congressman Charlie Wilson is an actual expert on this subject. Congressman Wilson represented the Second District of Texas from 1973 to 1997. He was the subject of the popular recent movie, "Charlie Wilson's War." The movie shows how Wilson helped the Afghans to beat back the Soviet invasion in their country in the 1980s.

Charlie Wilson understands that military force alone is not the answer to the world's problems. He believes that diplomacy and development assistance are actually the best answers.

Charlie described his position in an op-ed he wrote for The Washington Post last month. The op-ed is entitled, "Charlie Wilson's Peace," and I hope that every Member of the House will read it.

Wilson writes that after the defeat of the Soviets, his request for funds to rebuild Afghanistan was turned down. The result was a disaster for America.

Wilson writes, "Instead of intensifying our diplomatic and humanitarian efforts, we simply walked away, leaving a destroyed country that lacked roads, schools, and any plan or hope for rebuilding."

"Into this void marched the Taliban and al Qaeda. Had we remained engaged in Afghanistan, investing in education, health, and economic development, the world would be a very different place today."

I want to repeat, Mr. Speaker, Wilson's point because it is an important one. He says that al Qaeda became more powerful because the Afghan people did not receive the right kind of assistance from the United States. Yes, we gave them weapons, but we left them in rubble, and that's where terrorism grows.

Wilson goes on to say that "we cannot afford to aspire to anything less than defeating poverty, disease, and ignorance wherever they exist. It is a relatively small but incredibly effective investment that helps ensure our future national security and economic prosperity."

Charlie Wilson's experience in Afghanistan, Mr. Speaker, was over 20 years ago, but it is a real lesson for us today. It tells us that we won't defeat al Qaeda just by increasing the number of our troops in Afghanistan. We must focus our efforts in Afghanistan and Iraq on reconstruction.

That means redeploying our troops out of Iraq on a firm timetable, and then working with regional and international partners to rebuild that devastated land. Electricity and water must be restored to every home. Jobs must be created. The shattered educational and health care systems must be rebuilt. The Iraqi Government must stop dragging its feet and spend the

money it has budgeted for essential services.

And this House ought to take every chance to promote reconciliation in Iraq. Representative SHAYS and I have introduced legislation, H.R. 5925, to support the United States Institute for Peace, which has been carrying out important reconciliation projects in Iraq since 2004. The institute has worked to prevent violence and promote the rule of law, and it deserves our help.

Mr. Speaker, the current administration has only 4 months to go. I hope that the next administration will learn from this administration's mistakes. Starting next January 20, America must begin to export compassion and hope instead of war and occupation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. DAVIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

REAGAN HIGH SCHOOL RAIDER STUDENT CREDIT UNION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, today I want to congratulate a group of enterprising students and teachers at Ronald Reagan High School in Pffafftown, North Carolina. This month, Reagan High School launched North Carolina's first ever high school student-run credit union.

This is truly an historic and groundbreaking achievement. I want to congratulate all the faculty and students at Reagan who have been involved in getting the Raider Student Credit Union off the ground. Working hand in hand with Allegacy Federal Credit Union, they have created a student-run enterprise that should make these students proud.

When I recently visited the school to participate in the grand opening of the Raider Student Credit Union, I was so impressed by the students' ambition and work ethic. Many of them are pictured here with their faculty advisers. These students are a driving force in the creation of this unique and educational institution.

The new credit union is a part of the Reagan High School's financial literacy program and is a partnership with a local credit union, Allegacy Federal Credit Union. Reagan High School students are operating the branch three days a week during the school's lunch period, offering withdrawal and deposit services to its members.

At a time when so many Americans are struggling with family finances and with financial literacy at a low ebb, it is very encouraging to witness this